

From: Chris Dobbins
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello my name is Chris Dobbins, I'm a 17 year old living in the California Bay Area. I'm mailing you my thoughts on the proposed Microsoft Settlement.

In my view the proposed settlement is much too weak to do any good against the illegal monopoly that is Microsoft. What is needed is a strong punishment that will enable competition to flourish immediately, creating much needed diversity in the operating system market. Anything else would be down right dangerous.

Diversity is needed to protect the very infrastructure of the internet and computers in general. At this moment thousands of kids younger then me have the ability to write a simple viral program that can create havoc on the internet, spreading through well know holes in Microsoft Outlook and other Microsoft programs which are bundled with the OS. During the many e-mail virus attacks last year I had little to worry about because I use a Macintosh. My computer cannot run programs written for Windows. There are very few viruses for the Mac OS because the relatively low market share means that the cracker will not receive the attention they would get from creating a Windows virus and spreading it world wide.

If the Operating System market were more competitive then computers in general would be safer. Added diversity would not get in the way of communication either. Even though my computer is fully able to network with and talk to a computer running Windows, the differences between the two operating systems mean that it is much harder to infect both computers with the same program.

Microsoft says they are devoted to security, but only now that they are experiencing negative press because of the large amount of security holes in their software. I say it's about time we stopped trusting them with the security of computers everywhere. The Department of Justice has the means to impose strict sanctions and punishments on Microsoft, I say use that power to the fullest, before it's too late.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration,
Chris Dobbins